

NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

No.: 99-813

TO:	All Public and Private Schools Participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs County Superintendents of Schools Diocesan Superintendents of Schools Residential Child Care Institutions Summer Food Service Program Sponsors	ISSUE DATE: December 1999
FROM:	Nutrition Standards Unit	
ATTENTION:	Food Service Directors	
SUBJECT:	Food Safety Certification Update	
REFERENCE:	Management Bulletin 99-808 and Assembly Bill 1978	

This management bulletin provides information on the Food Safety Certification required by the enactment of Assembly Bill (AB) 1978. The Department of Health Services administers this new state mandate which began on January 1, 2000.

The following summarizes AB 1978 requirements:

- **One individual must be certified in food safety at each site** in the district or facility where food is prepared and/or served.
- The food safety certification requirement is not applicable to Residential Child Care Institutions licensed by the Department of Social Services.
- **Food safety certification is not required if food is sealed when received and remains sealed when served to participants of the Child Nutrition Programs.** For example, if a school site receives a pre-packaged item such as a baked good and serves the baked good in its original packaging to students, the school site would not be required to have an employee certified in food safety. However, if a school site receives a pre-packaged baked good, removes the original packaging, and serves the baked good to students, the school site must have an employee certified in food safety.
- Compliance with this mandate is required for all facilities with health permits and/or those that are inspected by local health departments.
- **Training in food safety is not required.** However, an examination offered by one of the four

approved organizations must be taken and passed to receive the Food Safety Certification. Division-sponsored training is offered through Cal-Pro-Net Centers for food service personnel. The current schedule of dates and locations will be sent under separate cover.

Attachment A contains questions and answers regarding the Food Safety Certification requirement and a list of the organizations approved to offer the examination.

Attachment B is provided by the California Coalition of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) and lists California's county health departments. Please call the contact listed for additional information regarding compliance or training for the examination.

If sponsors of the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs have questions, please contact Cindy Schneider, Child Nutrition Consultant, Nutrition Standards Unit, at (916) 322-1566 or (800) 952-5609 or via e-mail at cschneid@cde.ca.gov. Sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program may call Kathy Mackey, Child Nutrition Consultant, Nutrition Standards Unit, at (916) 324-0578 or (800) 952-5609 or via e-mail at kmackey@cde.ca.gov.

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